Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00 ERDA-05 FEA-01 COME-00 /072 W

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R 151551Z DEC 76 FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0345

CONFIDENTIAL VIENNA 10231

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, AU

SUBJECT: USE OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR RESEARCH APPLICATIONS

REF: STATE 271066, VIENNA 8080

- 1. ECONOMIC COORDINATION OFFICE (RESPONSIBLE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY AFFAIRS) IN FEDERAL CHANCELLERY HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS TO SUBSTITUTE 20 PERCENT ENRICHED URANIUM FOR THE 93.3 PERCENT ENRICHED URANIUM NOW USED IN THE ASTRA RESEARCH REACTOR AT SEIBERSDORF. TEXT OF GOA REPLY, WHICH ELABORATES TECHNICAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY PROPOSED SUBSTITUTION, BEING POUCHED. AUSTRIANS HOPE THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT FINAL ACTION ON PENDING EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FOR 2.43 KILOGRAMS OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR ASTRA REACTOR.
- 2. IN A RELATED MATTER, AUSTRIANS HAVE MENTIONED TO EMBASSY THAT THEY HAVE STILL NOT RECEIVED ANY COMMENTS FROM ERDA REGARDING THEIR PLANS FOR IMPROVING PHYSICAL SECURITY AT SEIBERSDORF WHICH RESULTED FROM ERDA INSPECTION LAST APRIL. PLANS WERE SUBMITTED LAST JULY VIA AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. GOA WANTS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE IS NO DELAY IN APPROVAL OF EXPORT LICENSES FOR NUCLEAR MATERIALS ON PHYSICAL SECURITY GROUNDS. FEDERAL CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE INVITED TO INSPECT PHYSICAL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS EARLY NEXT YEAR.
- 3. ACTION REQUESTED: ERDA COMMENTS AND/OR GUIDANCE ON AUSTRIAN PLANS FOR IMPROVING PHYSICAL SECURITY AT CONFIDENTIAL

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SEIBERSDORF WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO EMBASSY AND US

MISSION IAEA IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING BUCHANAN	INSPECTION.	
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